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## Glacier National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release  
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### Many Glacier Hotel to Open for the Season Friday, June 13

*Historic hotel's long-range rehabilitation continues with exterior work*

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – The historic Many Glacier Hotel will open for the 2003 season on Friday, June 13th. Sitting on the shores of Swiftcurrent Lake, Many Glacier Hotel is one of the grand lodges of the National Park System. From its massive timbered lobby and giant picture window, guests and visitors get spectacular lake and mountain views.

Built in 1915 by the Great Northern Railway, Many Glacier Hotel is a National Historic Landmark. It was designed in the style of a Swiss chalet. Eight hundred feet long, sixty-two feet high and forty feet wide, it is the largest structure in Glacier National Park.

The hotel is currently undergoing a three year, 8 million dollar renovation to repair the toll taken by Montana's harsh climate and to bring the hotel back to its historic appearance. The construction is being done in phases to reduce inconvenience to guests and visitors.

While the exterior of the hotel is being renovated, visitors and guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the history of Many Glacier Hotel. For the first time, Glacier National Park rangers will conduct daily tours to explain the renovation work and to tell the story of this wonderful old lodge.

The hotel renovation was begun in September 2001 with a massive structural stabilization project. It involved using hydraulic jacks to push the hotel's lakeside walls back in place while cables pulled from the other side. Once that was successfully completed, construction crews turned their attention to sealing the hotel's exterior from Montana's winter weather.

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This year's renovation schedule calls for work to be done on the hotel's exterior windows, doors and balconies until mid-June. At the same time, crews will rehabilitate and paint the siding and trim in the front and back of the lodge.

During June and July, renovation work will be limited primarily to Annex II and the kitchen and employee area located on each end of the hotel. Annex II will get a new roof, reinforced balconies and stairs. In addition, work will be done on the siding and trim. Crews will also renovate the balconies, stairs and siding on the back side of the kitchen, dining and employee wing.

In August, the work will shift almost entirely to the exterior of the kitchen, dining and employee wing of the hotel. It will get a new roof and crews will restore the siding and trim on the rear of the wing.

From September through December, crews will focus on the windows and doors at the front of the hotel. Additional portions of the hotel will be re-roofed, trusses, balconies and stairs will be rehabilitated and one of the hotel's historic elevators will be renovated.

Throughout the summer, the staging areas for construction crews will be set-up at the rear of the hotel in order to minimize inconvenience to hotel guests.

Mick Holm, superintendent of Glacier National Park stated, "Many Glacier Hotel has been a national treasure for nearly ninety years. The renovations currently underway will help preserve it for generations to come. We appreciate the public's patience and understanding as we return Many Glacier Hotel to its historic grandeur."

Additional renovations to the interior of the hotel are being planned for the future as funds become available.

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